

National Data Buoy Center

The National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), an element of the National Weather Service (NWS), is an agency within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is supported by personnel and ships of the U.S. Coast Guard.

NDBC operates automated observing systems that measure weather and ocean conditions from coastal and remote marine areas. The data collected at these stations are transmitted hourly to NWS Weather Forecast Offices for use in making weather predictions, performing analyses and developing forecast models. These measurements are used in forecasting weather for the U.S., public advisories and warnings, and climate and research programs.

Environmental measurements are made by a network of moored buoys and land stations deployed in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Great Lakes, the Gulf of Mexico and the Bering Sea. These atmospheric and oceanographic measurements are transmitted hourly to the local weather forecast offices for use in analysis and forecasting.

NDBC's extensive experience in automated environmental data collection has made it a valuable resource for agencies outside of NOAA.

Support is available in the following areas:

- **Weather monitoring reports** to NASA in support of Space Shuttle launches
- **Directional-wave** data for the Army Corps of Engineers
- **Ocean color data** in support of NASA
- **Buoys and power systems** for the operation of buoy-mounted radio links for the Federal Aviation Administration
- **Shipping** assistance for the St. Lawrence Seaway
- **Commercial satellite** launch support in the Pacific Ocean



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